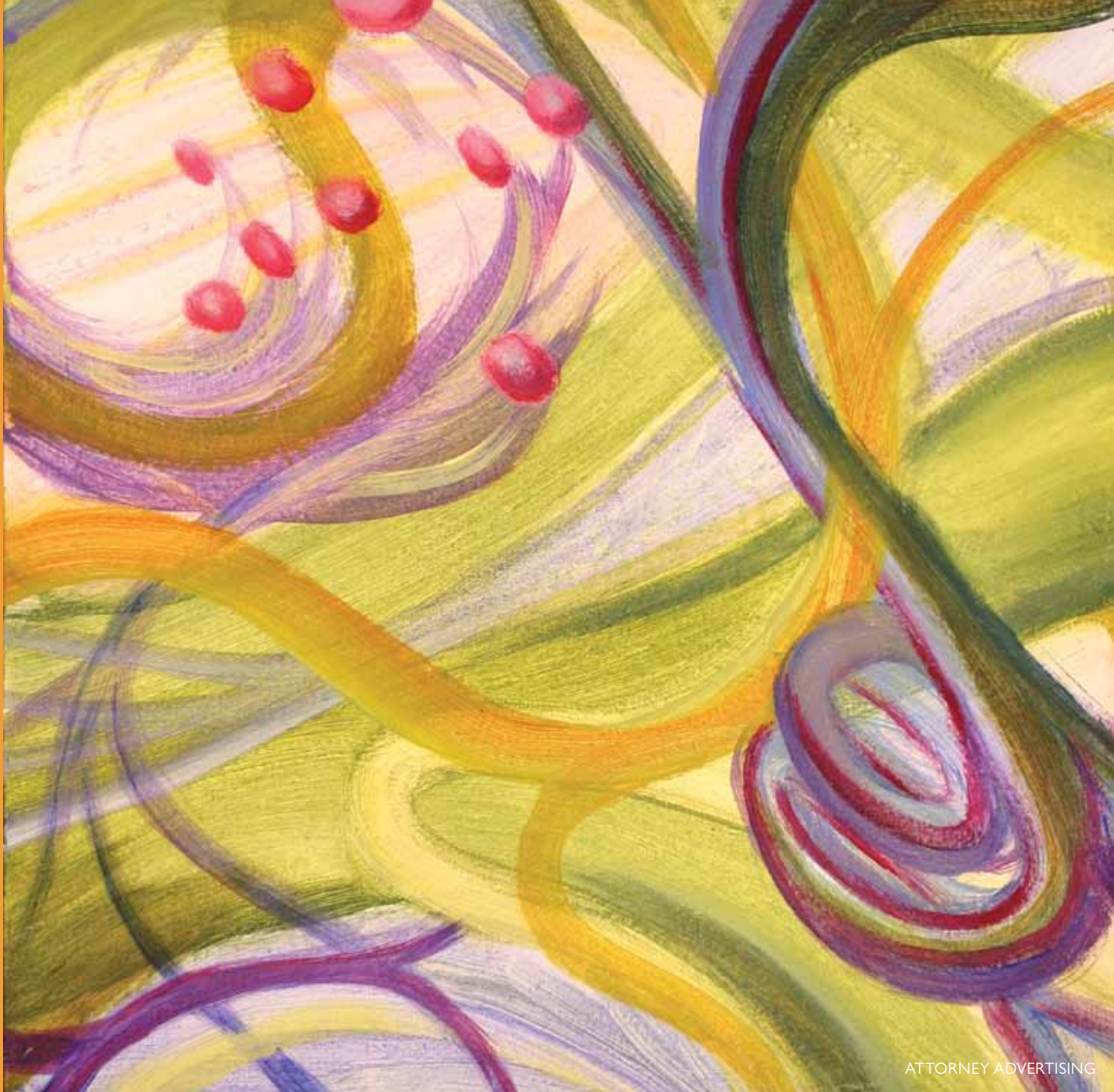


art & humanity

2009 Pro Bono and
Community Service Report

ROPES
& GRAY



2009 Pro Bono and Community Service Annual Report

Art & Humanity

Our 2009 Pro Bono and Community Service Report celebrates the art of giving. More than just describing the multiple ways Ropes & Gray serves those in need, *art & humanity* provides a new look at the oldest of alchemies—the melding of compassion and competence to bring about results that deeply touch the lives of those in need.

- > In 2009, Ropes & Gray increased its *pro bono* commitment by 40 percent, providing 90,000 hours of free representation to clients whose legal needs would otherwise go unmet. One of these *pro bono* clients is Artists for Humanity, a group that we have helped for nearly two decades and whose participants' work is prominently featured in this report.
- > Additionally, in a year of unprecedented need among nonprofit organizations and legal aid providers, 82 attorneys elected to participate in our New Alternatives Program, a fellowship program funded by the firm, and devote a year of their careers to public service. Their assistance has proved invaluable at a time when nonprofits and legal aid organizations were facing drastic cuts in funding.
- > At the same time, Ropes & Gray personnel continued to devote time to charitable works, especially those that benefit under-privileged children. They volunteered their time to reading projects and mentoring, and donated to projects that help the needy.

The cases, projects, and programs highlighted in *art & humanity* represent our great *pro bono* and community service efforts and results. And like the works of the students from Artists for Humanity featured throughout this report, each one is a masterpiece and all of them are bound to touch you.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Bradford Malt".

R. Bradford Malt
Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Montgomery".

John T. Montgomery
Managing Partner



*Silvi Naci, age 17,
acrylic on wood, 2005*

Ropes & Gray Pro Bono Committee



Ana M. Francisco
Chair

J. Steven Baughman

Karen Kemper Henson

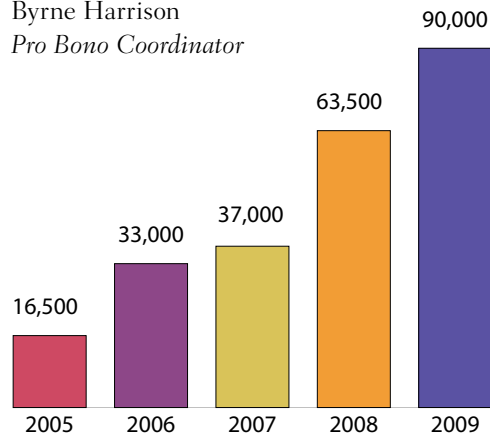
Bruce S. Manheim

William I. Sussman

Stephen A. Warnke

Rosalyn Garbose Nasdor
Pro Bono Manager

Byrne Harrison
Pro Bono Coordinator



Ropes & Gray Pro Bono Hours

A Message From Our Pro Bono Chair

Without doubt, 2009 was a particularly difficult year for the poor and the needy. Legal services budgets were slashed and close to 80 percent of the requests for *pro bono* legal assistance went unmet. In the face of a seemingly insurmountable situation, Ropes & Gray legal professionals stepped into the breach, donating 90,000 hours of *pro bono* assistance. These hours represent a 40 percent increase over the previous year and translate into \$36 million of free legal services to clients who otherwise could not afford counsel.

As impressive as these numbers are, the real power of our *pro bono* efforts is in the impact that access to counsel had on the lives of hundreds of individuals. An immigrant woman is no longer forced to stay with an abusive husband because she doesn't have a work visa. A veteran no longer has to fight to get the benefits that he deserves. Nonprofit organizations can more readily focus on work to improve the lives of their low-income clients.

The simple, positive change in the situations facing our clients is undeniably good for the individual, and is even better for everyone who believes in equal access to justice under the law.

Assisting Children

Children are the most vulnerable and often overlooked segment of our society. Ropes & Gray attorneys fight for the rights of children both through individual representation and by assisting nonprofit organizations dedicated to children.

Cradles to Crayons (C2C)

C2C was founded in 2002, with the mission of providing children ages 12 and under some of the most important basics of life—free of charge. It provides all the goods that children need to be safe, protected from the elements, and ready to learn. We assisted C2C in finding a new home base that fits its unique requirements—a mix of office and warehouse space suitable for volunteer training, office functions, and storage and packaging of goods for the children it serves.

Malek Girls International (MGI)

We helped incorporate MGI, which was founded by a young woman from the Sudan who experienced first-hand the ubiquitous despair faced by young girls struggling to attain a basic education. MGI's mission is to improve the health, education level, and well-being of girls and young women in the Sudan by building a school to teach life skills.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

NCMEC assists parents whose children are abducted, typically by a non-custodial parent, and works extensively with foreign authorities to locate and return missing children. We prepared two *amici* briefs filed with the Supreme Court on behalf of

NCMEC. The briefs urged the Court to interpret the Hague Convention broadly, permitting internationally abducted children to be returned to their home countries for fair custody determinations.

Bird Street Community Center

The Bird Street Community Center provides high quality and affordable recreational, educational, and developmental activities for children and youth in the Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Hyde Park regions of Boston. Each year, the Center serves more than 900 youths between the ages of 5 and 22. Working closely with the Bird Street board of directors, Ropes & Gray developed new corporate governance policies, providing the flexibility required to address new opportunities and challenges.

String Training and Education Program—Project STEP

Project STEP provides music instruction for talented minority students. We assisted Project STEP in drafting a fiscal sponsorship agreement with The Ann Hobson Pilot Project, named after a young African American musician who overcame both racial and gender barriers to become one of the best classical harpists in the world. The fiscal sponsorship agreement provided the funding for a film of musical, cultural, and historical significance.

Ala Costa Center

Ala Costa Center operates day centers for children and adults with developmental disabilities, teaching skills necessary for successful participation in community activities and promoting participants' independence and social integration. We advised the Center on revisions to its organizational documents.

Guardian Youth Scholars Program

The Guardian Youth Scholars Program empowers recently emancipated foster youth by helping them deal with a range of legal issues that directly impact their lives. Ropes & Gray attorneys developed a tailored legal curriculum, and have presented workshops on topics ranging from rights to foster care records to employment law to landlord/tenant law. The program has been a big success, and the students have requested additional presentations in the coming semesters.

amplifyme

amplifyme is a nonprofit that engages people in positive change through media arts. It uses pop culture to inspire people to think differently about their power to create change through civic engagement, and injects mainstream media with inspiring and empowering messages. We assisted the organization with matters relating to its tax-exempt status.



Cassandra Lattimore, age 22, acrylic on wood, 2008
Cassandra became a mentor in the painting studio in the summer of 2008.



Health Care

Through our participation in projects across the country, we promote access to quality health care and work to remove some of the key contributors to chronic health problems, particularly among the poor and working poor.

Medical-Legal Partnership|Boston (MLP|Boston)

MLP|Boston allies health care providers with lawyers to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable populations.

In 2009, Ropes & Gray expanded its work at the Dorchester House Multi-Service Center, the community health center it adopted through MLP|Boston. We provided assistance to more than 40 low-income families that receive medical care at Dot House. Our clients initially presented with medical problems and were then referred by Dot House clinicians for help with basic needs, including housing, public benefits, immigration, and education—issues that were undermining the clients' well-being.

In addition to the weekly on-site clinics at the health center, and resulting representation of individuals and families, we have partnered with MLP|Boston to create an easily replicated model to expand participation in the “adopt a health clinic” program and better meet the legal needs of disadvantaged patients throughout the country.

AFH participant Massiel Grullon, age 19, puts the finishing touches on a painting. Massiel is currently employed as assistant mentor in AFH's graphic design studio.

Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform

The mission of the Maryland Women's Coalition is to ensure that all residents of Maryland have comprehensive, affordable, accessible, and high quality health care. Our attorneys advised this grassroots organization on federal and state health care proposals. With our help, the Coalition succeeded in passing legislation to expand access to quality health care by increasing Maryland's income eligibility standards for Medicaid.

Child Vaccinations

Receiving proper vaccinations is critical to a healthy childhood; however, not every child has access to them. We assisted the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in drafting legislation that would guarantee children in Massachusetts access to routine vaccinations. The bill, which is under consideration by the state legislature, would reduce financial barriers to obtaining vaccines.

First Signs

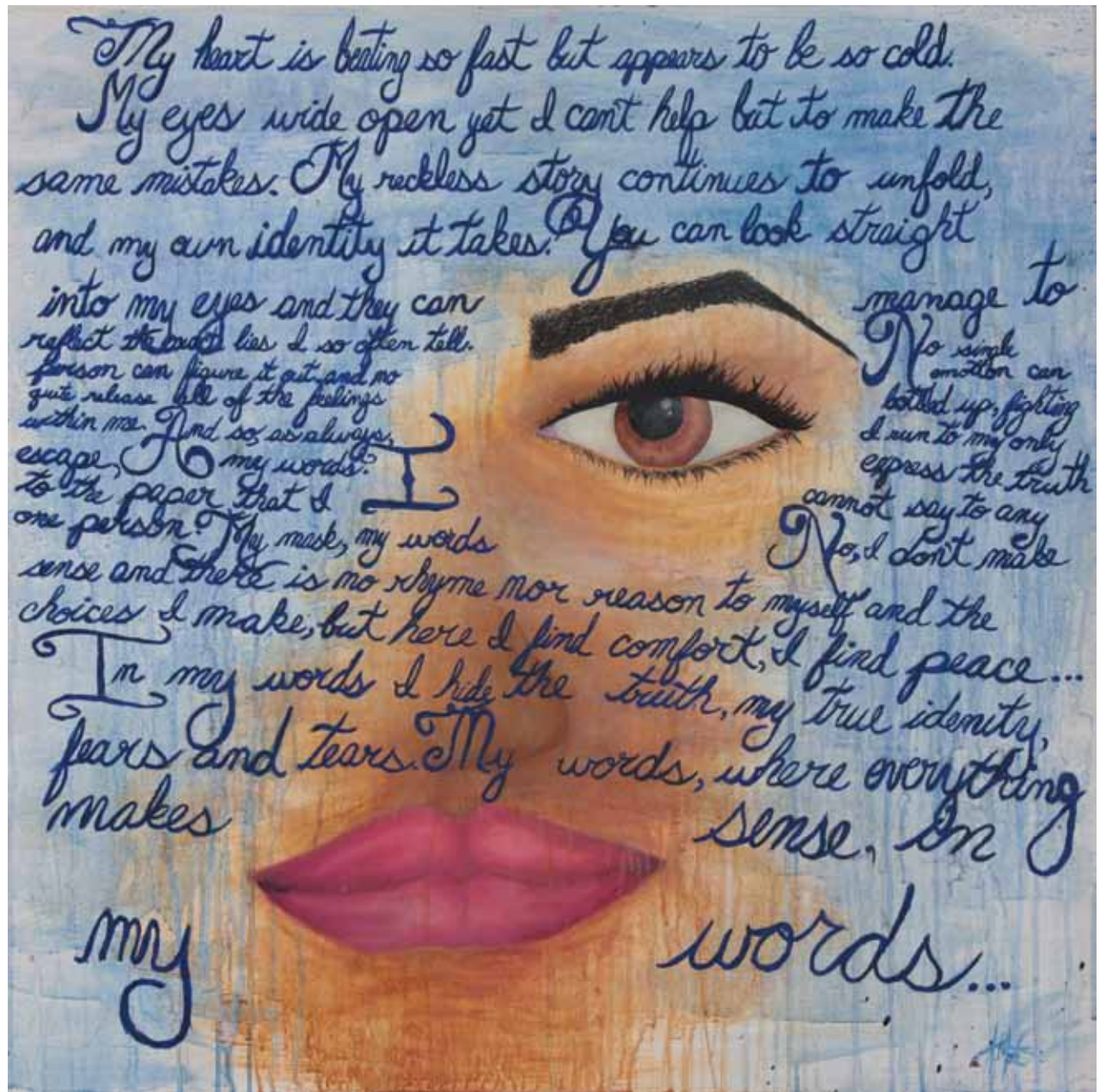
First Signs is a leader in early identification and intervention of children with developmental delays and disorders. In a collaboration with Florida State University and Autism Speaks, we helped First Signs expand the offerings of its online Autism Spectrum Disorders Video Glossary project. The glossary allows parents and professionals to understand terms associated with autism spectrum disorders through clips demonstrating each term.

Guidance Center

The Guidance Center provides an array of integrated services to help children and families cope with developmental, mental health, social, and behavioral difficulties. Ropes & Gray attorneys assisted the Center with its merger into Riverside Community Care, allowing our client to strengthen its programs and expand its reach in the community, while ensuring the continuation of its mission.

Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights—Elder Health Care Disparities Coalition

The Elder Health Care Disparities Coalition educates African American elders about illnesses that may affect them; promotes general wellness in the African American community through exercise, proper nutrition, and self-empowerment; and advocates for elder health care reform. Ropes & Gray attorneys are assisting the organization in registering as its own tax-exempt organization.



Tercia Mota, age 17,
acrylic on wood, 2009



Poverty Relief

Ropes & Gray helps the poor and working poor gain access to benefits to which they are entitled, putting them on the path toward greater financial independence.

Assistance for Families

Even during strong economic times, many low-income women are unable to leave abusive spouses because of financial pressures. They may be undocumented and not have work authorization permitting them to get a job, or they may not know that they are entitled to spousal or child support. With the help of our legal aid partners, Ropes & Gray attorneys help these women find a path to independence while giving them the tools they need to create a better life for themselves and their children.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Divorce

VAWA allows victims of domestic violence married to citizens or legal residents of the United States to petition for legal residency for themselves and their children.

In one case, we represented a woman who had been in an abusive marriage for 18 years and did not have legal immigration status in the United States. She was afraid of leaving the marriage for fear of being deported. To ensure that she could continue living in the United States, we filed for lawful permanent residency based on the abuse she had endured. Based on her compelling story, her VAWA petition was quickly approved.

*Matthew Shea, age 17,
acrylic on wood, 2008*

After enduring physical and emotional abuse, another client sought legal assistance to extricate herself from a marriage. She realized too late that the marriage was most likely an effort by her husband to secure citizenship in the United States. Aware that admitting he was at fault would imperil his immigration proceedings, the husband contested the divorce. Through negotiation, Ropes & Gray secured the husband's admission of fault and obtained a judgment of divorce for our client.

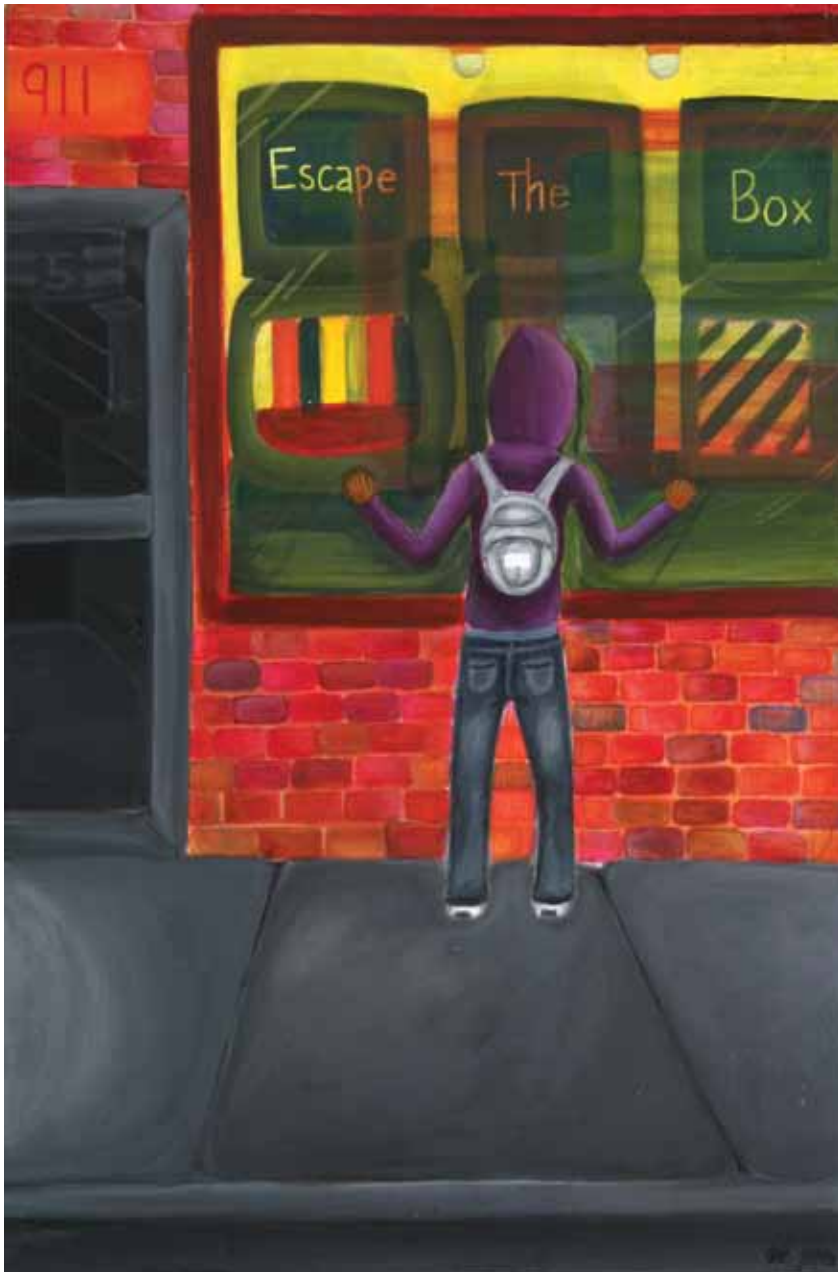
Benefits

Social Security Disability

Our client, a former jockey, was denied disability benefits despite his severe medical conditions. From the outset, it was apparent to our attorneys that he was in chronic pain. Yet, due to lack of representation, his claim had been denied. After gathering extensive evidence that firmly supported his claim, it was allowed by the administrative law judge.

Veteran's Appeal

We represented a U.S. Navy veteran in his appeal from the denial of disability benefits. The veteran had sustained injuries while serving aboard a naval vessel. Following a procedurally flawed hearing, the Board of Veterans' Appeals denied compensation for one injury and reduced compensation for another. We successfully negotiated for a new medical examination, and a new hearing to evaluate his disability claims.



Tax Assistance

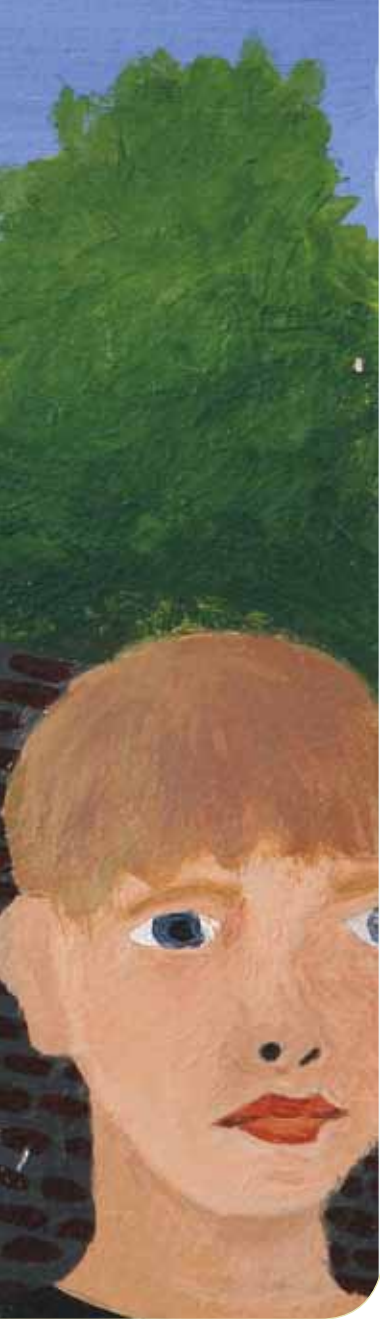
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/ Earned Income Tax Credit

Through a number of legal aid agencies, Ropes & Gray attorneys participate in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Earned Income Tax Credit initiatives. Our volunteers assist people in filing their tax returns and applying for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a refund available to low-income working people. This money helps clients pay for basic necessities—rent or mortgages, home and car repairs, utilities, groceries, and other bills.

Volunteer Lawyers Project

We represented a grandmother who was single-handedly raising two of her grandchildren while working to support her extended family. After her husband died, she began to fall behind on her mortgage and other bills. In addition, she received income tax assessments based on errors in prior years' returns. We obtained abatements of the tax bills, while simultaneously working with a credit counselor to assist the client. With our help, she was able to keep her family home.

*Mattaya Fitts, age 15,
acrylic on wood, 2008*



Housing and Homelessness

Ropes & Gray attorneys are assisting clients to make sure they have a decent place to live.

A Safe Home

Our client endured a decades-long abusive relationship with a woman who became her wife and then landlord. Facing eviction and loss of public housing benefits—which would have put our client and her two young children on the street—the Ropes & Gray team was able to reinstate her benefits and force a favorable settlement on the eviction matter. As a result, our client still has a home and has broken away from the abusive partner.

Helping Young Mothers

We represented young mothers living in intolerable conditions. In one case, our client lived in a building where several units were being renovated. Her apartment was filled with a thick layer of construction dust, and at times had no heat. Facing eviction, we negotiated a settlement with the landlord providing a cash payment to our client and additional time to locate a new apartment.

In another case, the landlords had allowed the building to fall into disrepair. As a result, our client lived in uninhabitable conditions including rodent infestation, inadequate plumbing, and severe electrical problems. Through our representation, the client and her children were able to move to more suitable housing and reach an amicable settlement with the landlord and building management agency.

*Steven Cronin, age 15,
acrylic on wood, 2007*

Small Business

Ropes & Gray attorneys assist existing small businesses and micro-entrepreneurs who are just starting, supporting economically challenged communities.

Samasource

Samasource selects and trains locally-owned small businesses, nonprofits, and groups of home-based workers from the poorest parts of the world to act as service partners, and then connects these service partners to paying clients. The result is that marginalized people, from refugees in Kenya to women in Pakistan, are able to receive life-changing work opportunities via the Internet. Ropes & Gray attorneys have provided general corporate representation to Samasource, helping it increase the reach and viability of its mission.

Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights' Economic Justice Project (EJP)

EJP's mission is to revitalize communities by providing legal advice to businesses and entrepreneurs in depressed and low-income communities. Ropes & Gray attorneys conducted legal workshops and clinics in the City of Brockton, Massachusetts through EJP. The workshops give a high-level overview of areas of law that might impact businesses on a daily basis (contracts, leasing, bankruptcy, corporate formation). The legal clinics provide an opportunity for individual consultation. We are assisting an individual looking to set up a historical preservation society dedicated to the City of Brockton; and another client with her for-profit off-site administrative services business, as well as her nonprofit organization teaching English as a second language.

CropCircle Kitchen

CropCircle Kitchen provides training and advice to start-up food services companies, and is a source of much-needed entrepreneurial assistance. Ropes & Gray helped CropCircle Kitchen acquire a culinary business incubator program facing closure due to lack of funding. Our attorneys structured the deal to minimize interruption of operations and personal financial risk for CropCircle Kitchen's principals.

Jade Chocolates

A former architectural designer, our client wanted to refocus her career on something she was passionate about and created Jade Chocolates, an artisanal chocolatier. Jade Chocolates blends tea and spices from Asia and the Pacific Islands into small batch, handmade chocolates. Its commercial kitchen in San Francisco employs part-time assistants, bringing jobs to the Bay Area. Ropes & Gray helped incorporate the business and provided trademark advice for the company name and the names of some of its chocolates, such as Dragon's Breath and Orient Espresso.



*Uro Nazy'at, age 20,
acrylic on wood, 2004*



Safeguarding Asylum Seekers

In 2009, Ropes & Gray attorneys continued building our leading asylum practice, assisting more than 110 asylum seekers and refugees.

“
Our client can live proudly as an openly gay man in New York City
and use his education to contribute to the well-being of our country;
what could be better than that?”

– Ann Lewis

Jamaica

Time magazine recently referred to Jamaica as “the most homophobic place on earth.” There have been widespread incidents of mob violence and even four killings of gays. This cultural intolerance leads many gays and lesbians to attempt to hide their orientation, or flee persecution. Ropes & Gray attorneys assisted several asylum seekers from Jamaica in 2009, winning asylum for five individuals and preparing applications for others which remain pending.

In one case, we represented a young man who was beaten and threatened by his co-workers and mobs for being homosexual. He complained to the authorities but the Jamaican government and police did nothing to protect him. He lived in constant fear for his life and decided to leave Jamaica. After entering the United States on a work visa, we helped him file an asylum application. He was granted asylum, enrolled in a local community college, and recently got his first job.

*Nathan Waldron, age 17,
acrylic on wood, 2006*

Iran

We represent a young woman from Iran who was subjected to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse by the Iranian government based on her six-month affiliation with an opposition group. She was a high school student at the time of her arrest, and spent four years in prison for her support of a group that promoted democracy and freedom. She fled the country more than 20 years later after living in constant fear of her abusers. She was granted asylum in 2009 after she summoned enough courage to tell her story, and has finally begun to rebuild her life in a democratic society like the one she advocated for as a teenager.

Kenya

We represent a man from Kenya who worked for an organization advocating for the rights of the poor. The organization began disclosing information to the public about government sanctioned extra-judicial killings of suspected opposition youth. After the executive director and another employee of the organization were publicly assassinated, our client started receiving threats. He reported the threats to the police but rather than protecting him, they detained him, beat and tortured him, and left him for dead. He was rescued by a passerby and escaped to the United States. He immediately filed an asylum application, but it was initially rejected due to missing information. We successfully represented him through the affirmative asylum application process, and are now helping him apply for derivative asylum for his wife and two children.

Protecting Intellectual Property

As part of our firm's Intellectual Property practice, we are often involved in trademark and copyright matters for our *pro bono* clients.

Carter Burden Center for the Aging

The Carter Burden Center serves senior citizens, providing a diverse set of programs including a lunch club, exercise classes, computer training, arts classes, and cultural programs. The Center sought our assistance with devising a trademark strategy to protect the brands of several existing and new programs while also ensuring that the Center was not infringing any marks of other organizations. Our advice allowed the Center to expand its programs and to advertise those programs with greater legal certainty.

Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)

GMHC provides advocacy and support services on behalf of those living with HIV/AIDS, information to help prevent the transmission of the virus, and health care. We advised GMHC regarding several marks and filed a new application for one of its affiliated organizations, Friends for Life, after the existing registration had lapsed.

Right Rides

RightRides strives to build safer communities by putting an end to gender-based harassment and sexual assault. It offers safety education and advocacy programs, and offers women, LGBT, and gender non-conforming individuals free late night rides home so that they can travel safely through high-risk areas. We assisted RightRides in obtaining the registration and design of *RightRides: Because getting home safely shouldn't be a luxury.*

Death Penalty: Christopher Lee Price

Mr. Price was sentenced to death in Alabama state court in 1993 for a crime that he committed when he was 19 years old. His trial counsel failed to conduct an adequate investigation into his background and thus did not learn that Mr. Price had been physically, mentally, and sexually abused by various family members from childhood through adolescence. As a result, virtually no mitigation evidence was presented during the penalty phase of the trial. Other serious errors by the prosecution and the trial court also rendered the penalty phase fundamentally unfair. Ropes & Gray has been seeking to have Mr. Price's death sentence vacated for nearly 10 years. In late 2009, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Price's federal petition for habeas corpus presents several constitutional claims that warrant appellate review, and his appeal is pending.



*Jesse Racusen, age 16, acrylic on wood, 2004
Jesse returns from Pratt University every summer
to mentor AFH youth in the painting studio.*



New Alternatives Program

In 2009, the firm extended its commitment to underserved communities during the economic downturn by offering associates the opportunity to undertake one year public interest fellowships. With Ropes & Gray funding, fellows are helping impoverished clients and worthy nonprofits around the country

and the world. Our fellows are providing direct representation to poor clients with housing, benefits, asylum, criminal defense, and other basic needs; working for city and state government agencies in a time of deep budget cuts; and assisting advocacy, human rights, and law reform institutions.

Representative fellowship host organizations include:

- > ACLU of Washington State
- > American Council on Education
- > Asylum Access (Ecuador)
- > Community Development Venture Capital Alliance
- > Disability Rights North Carolina
- > D.C. Open Government Coalition
- > Environmental Defense Fund
- > Federal Public Defender, Massachusetts Office
- > Foundation for International Medical Relief of Children
- > Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders
- > Greater Boston Legal Services
- > Health Law Advocates
- > Innocence Project Northwest
- > International Justice Mission
- > Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association
- > Massachusetts Advocates for Children
- > Medicare Rights Center
- > People's Watch (India)
- > The Legal Aid Society
- > The Business Law Center Clinic at Loyola University Chicago's School of Law
- > United Nations Development Programme

*Kutendereza "Tuki" Babumba, age 18,
acrylic on wood, 2005*

Pro Bono Awards

Deborah Levi Award

Each year the firm bestows the Deborah Levi Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service. The award is presented in memory of Ropes & Gray attorney Deb Levi, a tireless advocate of *pro bono* and public service projects who lost her battle with cancer in 2002.



Associate Jenny Rikoski receiving the 2009 Deborah Levi Award.

Ropes & Gray Award for Outstanding Partner Pro Bono Service

In 2009, Ropes & Gray awarded its first annual award for Outstanding Partner Pro Bono Service.



Sam Buffone

Recognition of Our Work: 2009 Awards

- > Ten associates were named to the Volunteer Lawyers Project Honor Roll for their civil legal assistance to low-income residents of Boston.
- > A partner received the Boston University School of Law's inaugural Public Service Award.
- > Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law honored an associate for his work in civil rights and housing matters.
- > The Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project (PAIR) presented a partner with their 2009 Outstanding Service Award.
- > An associate was honored by the Massachusetts Legal Clinic for the Homeless for her work coordinating the firm's efforts on their behalf.
- > The Legal Aid Society awarded its 2009 Pro Bono Publico Award to one of our partners for his service to the society and its clients.
- > The New York City Family Court Volunteer Lawyer Program recognized 26 associates who participated in its family court clinic.

“I'm very grateful that Ropes is so strongly committed to *pro bono* and public service. I've been encouraged to pursue work that is personally meaningful to me, which is advocacy on behalf of Iraqi and Afghan asylum-seekers and refugees.”

-Jenny Rikoski



*Kerry Edomwaryi, age 18,
acrylic on wood, 2006*

Our Pro Bono Partners

- > AIDS Legal Referral Panel
- > Chicago Volunteer Legal Services
- > Community Legal Services of East Palo Alto
- > Community Organization Representation Project
- > Conservation Law Foundation
- > Health Law Advocates
- > Human Rights First
- > inMotion
- > Immigration Equality
- > International Institute of Boston
- > International Senior Lawyers Project
- > Iraqi Refugee Project
- > Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
- > Lawyers Alliance for New York
- > Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- > Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- > Legal Services for Entrepreneurs of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
- > Massachusetts Legal Clinic for the Homeless
- > Medical-Legal Partnership|Boston
- > National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- > New York City Family Court Project
- > New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- > Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project
- > Sanctuary for Families
- > Suffolk Probate & Family Court – Lawyer for the Day Program
- > The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association
- > The Legal Aid Societies of the District of Columbia, New York, and San Mateo County
- > The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program
- > The Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association
- > The Women's Bar Foundation/Family Law Project for Battered Women
- > Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund
- > United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- > United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts
- > United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- > Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts
- > Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, New York
- > Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco

*Gailyn Weeks, age 18,
acrylic on wood, 2009*



Community Service

Ropes & Gray supports a number of charities, giving both our time and resources to help those in need. We are particularly proud of the work we perform on behalf of the children in our communities. As Frederick Douglass said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” Hundreds of Ropes & Gray lawyers and staff have taken that quote to heart and are using their time and resources to help at-risk youth.

Supporting Education

Everybody Wins/Power Lunch

Providing a lifelong love of reading is more than just teaching literacy. Few people know this better than the dedicated Ropes & Gray volunteers in these two programs who devote one lunchtime a week during the school year to read to elementary school children. In the process of reading and bonding with students, volunteers are able to impart the truly transformative and transporting power of reading for both relaxation and learning.

Citizen Schools 8th Grade Academy

The power to express oneself effectively through the written word is unleashed in this innovative after-school program which pairs a volunteer writing coach with a middle-school student for a one-on-one “apprenticeship.” Ropes & Gray volunteer coaches meet with their apprentices throughout the school year to help them improve their writing skills. At the end of the year, the pairs publish an edition of *Bridging*, a magazine showcasing the apprentices’ articles about youth-oriented issues. The coaches’ involvement with the students often takes on additional dimensions, such as counseling on high school choices, and volunteers and apprentices frequently develop mentoring relationships that continue throughout high school and beyond.

Mock Trial Programs

From *Perry Mason*, through *L.A. Law* and *Law & Order*, images of courtroom advocacy have long shaped the public’s perception of what the law is and how it works. Ropes & Gray volunteers with the Mock Trial Programs give interested middle-school students a closer look at the art of advocacy, bringing them into the firm for a crash course in litigation. Working on a mock case, the students spend the semester practicing their direct- and cross-examination skills with the witnesses (attorneys from the firm). They also practice their openings and closings with the help of attorney coaches. The program culminates in a mock trial before a federal or state judge and a jury of community leaders.

Legal Outreach

Ropes & Gray has participated in Legal Outreach for more than 20 years, helping the college booster program use the legal profession as a medium to encourage inner-city high school students to continue their education. Legal Outreach students—middle-school students from the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan—spend four days in the firm’s New York office, working with Ropes & Gray mentors on individual assignments that are similar to ones given to summer associates. On the final day, each student presents a report summarizing a personal legal project, as well as results of a comprehensive group project.



*Melyssa Centeno, age 16,
acrylic on wood, 2006*



Children in Need

Ropes & Gray is proud to provide annual support to school-supply and clothing drives, gift collections, and other programs benefiting children in need.

Backpack Project for Homeless Children

The promise of a new school year, with new clothes and fresh supplies, is often missing for children living in homeless shelters. The Backpack Project, created a decade ago by a legal secretary in our Boston office, restores this promise by providing new, fully stocked backpacks to homeless children at the start of the school year. Each backpack contains school supplies and new outfits. In 2009, Ropes & Gray employees donated more than 800 backpacks to children in need.

Bundle Up Project

A warm coat in winter seems as basic a necessity as there is, yet many in our communities lack even this simple protection. The Bundle Up project at Ropes & Gray addresses this shortage by donating new coats, snowsuits, hats, scarves, and mittens to homeless children. A dedicated team of our personnel act as shelter coordinators, linking sponsors within the firm with specific children in need and delivering hundreds of gifts of winter apparel to local shelters shortly before Christmas. During 2009, Ropes & Gray employees supported nearly 550 children in 14 shelters throughout Boston.

Angel Tree/Holiday Gift Campaign

Gift giving during the holiday season is a timeless tradition and giving a present to a child who would otherwise go without one has long been a part of Ropes & Gray's community outreach.

*Nicole Baldner, age 15,
acrylic on wood, 2007*

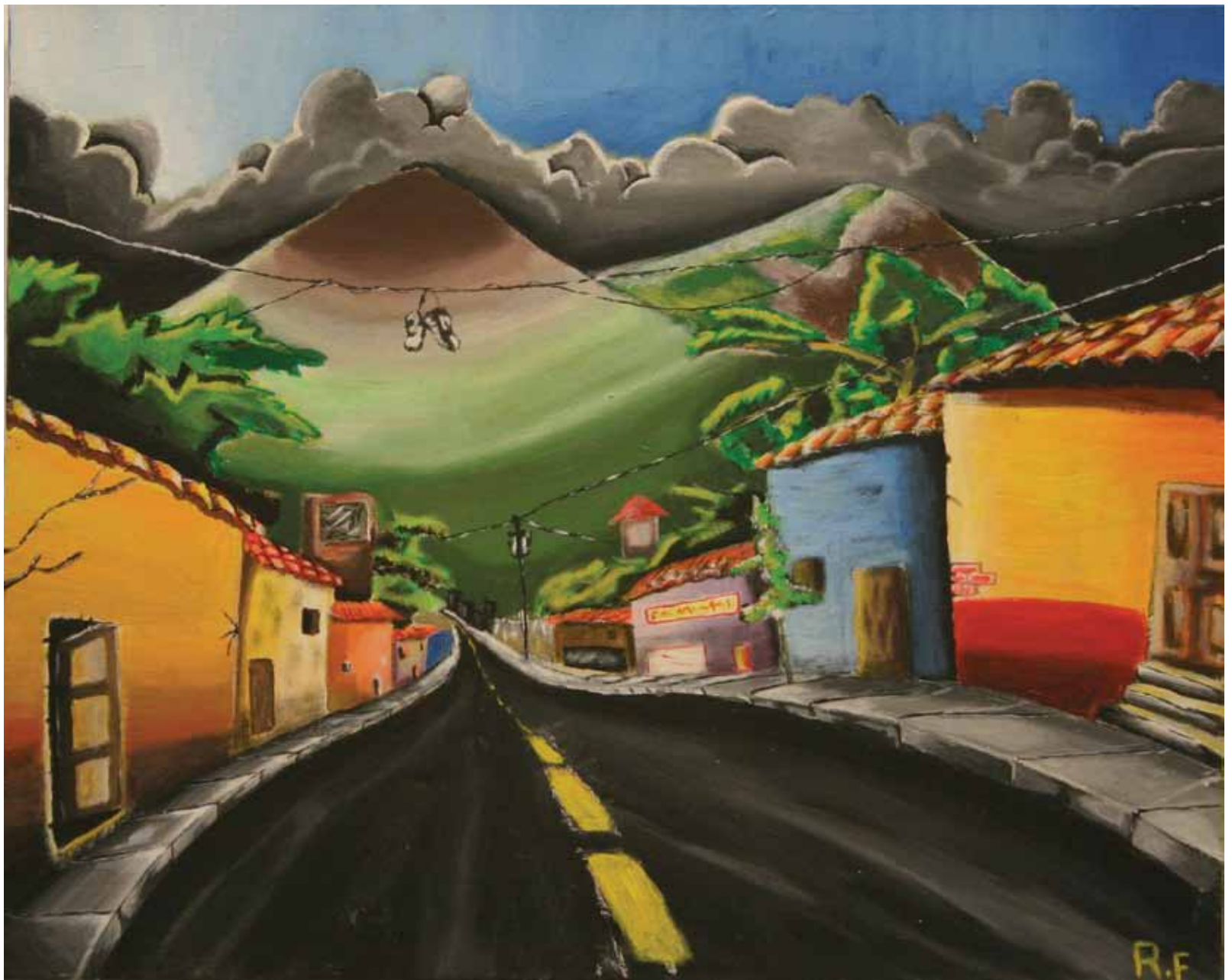
Our various offices' contributions include the Angel Tree project, coordinated with the Salvation Army, and the Holiday Gift Campaign with the Ecumenical Hunger Program. Through these and other similar campaigns, donors either make their own choices about which toys and clothing to give, or fulfill a special wish by purchasing a specific gift item requested by a child.

"Share Your Lunch" Fundraiser

Summer months can be far from carefree for children who rely on school-subsidized lunch programs. So each June, Ropes & Gray personnel participate in the "Share Your Lunch" drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank. By forgoing a meal or two and donating the money they would have spent to Second Harvest, personnel help ensure that children don't go hungry. Support for "Share Your Lunch" complements the usual food drives that our offices take up around the Thanksgiving holiday.



The FEED 2 bag is a stylish burlap and 100% organic cotton tote. This bag is as functional as it is fashionable, and each one has been hand painted by a talented AFH teen painting apprentice. Each FEED 2 bag sold feeds 2 children in school for a year through the UN World Food Programme.



Raul Fernandez, age 19,
acrylic on wood, 2005



artists for humanity

A micro-enterprise arts organization run by and for at-risk youth hardly seemed sustainable, much less replicable, when it was conceived in 1990. And yet, 20 years later, Artists For Humanity (AFH) is a national model for how to empower teens from low and very-low income homes through an intensive program of arts, creativity, and enterprise.

More than 235 AFH youths join with professional artists/designers to create and sell art products. Each participant receives an average of 152 hours of mentoring, a wage, and a lifetime of experience. With fully equipped studios in seven artistic media, youth and mentors collaborate on creative projects, many commissioned by clients. In the process, young artists develop entrepreneurial skills and introduce audiences to their voice, vision, and virtuosity. AFH apprentices have produced fine art and creative products for Boston's largest firms and organizations and for permanent display at Logan International Airport.

Ropes & Gray has provided *pro bono* representation to AFH since its founding and is proud to advance its mission of bridging economic, racial, and social divisions by providing underserved youth with the keys to self-sufficiency through paid employment in the arts. As one AFH alum summed up: "Artists for Humanity gave me a voice when no one else would give me a thought."

2009 Charitable Contributions

- > Action for Boston Community Development
- > American Cancer Society, Inc.
- > American Friends of the Hebrew University Inc.
- > American Red Cross in Greater New York
- > Amos House
- > Anti-Defamation League
- > Archdiocese of Boston
- > Arthritis Foundation Inc.
- > Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston
- > Association of Hispanic Healthcare Executives
- > Big Shoulders Fund
- > Boston Bar Foundation
- > Boston Center for Community & Justice
- > Boston Partners in Education
- > Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
- > Brooklyn Academy of Music Inc.
- > Children of Armenia Fund Inc.
- > Citizen Schools
- > Concern Worldwide US Inc.
- > Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
- > David Dawes Nee II Foundation
- > D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program
- > D.C. Volunteer Lawyers Project
- > Federated Dorchester Neighborhood Houses Inc.
- > First Defense Legal Aid
- > GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders)
- > Greater Boston Legal Services Inc.
- > GreenLight Fund
- > Health Care For All
- > Health Law Advocates
- > HealthFirst Inc.
- > Hemophilia Association of New Jersey
- > Horizons for Homeless Children
- > Human Rights First
- > Immigrant Learning Center Inc.
- > Immigration Equality
- > International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution
- > Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
- > LaGuardia Community College Foundation
- > Lambda Legal
- > Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
- > Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- > Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- > Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law of the Boston Bar Association
- > Legal Aid Society (NY)
- > Legal Community Against Violence
- > Legal Outreach
- > Marc Lustgarten Pancreatic Cancer Foundation
- > Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
- > Massachusetts Supreme Court Historical Society
- > Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
- > Medicare Rights Center Inc.
- > MFY Legal Services, Inc.
- > New England Conservatory of Music
- > New York Blood Center
- > New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
- > Partners in School Innovation
- > Pine Street Inn
- > Police Athletic League Inc.
- > Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project
- > Pro Bono Net
- > Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc.
- > Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Inc.
- > The Legal Aid Society (San Francisco)
- > The National Kidney Foundation
- > Trinity Boston Foundation Inc.
- > United States Fund for UNICEF
- > Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association

Awards

Ropes & Gray's annual *Outstanding Commitment to Community Service* award recognizes the one employee whose exceptional involvement with helping those in need reflects the firm's core commitment to being in the service of others. Carson Dottin was recognized in 2009 for his longstanding work with Youth Connection, the New York branch of Nazarene Youth International.

“*I do my best for the kids and I will continue to do so.*”

-Carson Dottin





*Mary Collins, age 15,
acrylic on wood, 2010*

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